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June 28 peace talks with Reds cancelled

By CHRISTINA MENDEZ

The resumption of peace talks between the government and communist rebels originally set for this month has been cancelled.

President Duterte ordered the cancellation, according to presidential adviser on the peace process Jesus Dureza, to allow a more thorough engagement with the public on the issue.

Dureza did not say when the talks would resume, but in remarks yesterday at the oath-taking of barangay officials in Sta. Rosa, Laguna, Duterte said

Philippines (CPP).

Dureza said government chief peace negotiator and labor chief Silvestre Bello III had already relayed the decision of the President to his counterpart, National Democratic Front (NDF) chief negotiator Fidel Agcaoli, and to the Norwegian government, which is acting as facilitator for the peace talks.

Rody won't allow another Kadamay takeover. See Page 9.

the talks may have to be deferred until July as he needed "more time."

"Yung kay Sison, maybe July. I've invited him for 60 days lang," Duterte said, referring to Jose Maria Sison, the self-exiled founding chairman of the Communist Party of the

"Hindi na mangyayari (It won't happen anymore)," Dureza told a press briefing, referring to the talks. "We will go and listen to the public as we need to meet with the different stakeholders."

When asked by the Norwegian

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government facilitator if it meant a stop to the peace talks, Dureza said he gave assurance that it was just a temporary setback.

"There is no stopping in our work for peace, it's a work piece by piece, as they say. And everybody should stay the course... I am sure that the other side has a reaction, but Sec. Bebot Bello was able to relay to the other side," Dureza said.

Duterte first cancelled the peace talks in November last year reportedly in response to continuing attacks by rebels on government forces and private targets.

He issued Proclamation No. 360 terminating the peace negotiations with the CPP and its political wing the NDF and its armed group the New People's Army (NPA).

On April 8, Duterte called on Sison to return home within 60 days and start the back-channel efforts for the resumption of peace negotiations.

"The President decided, so the deadline is done with but the efforts will continue," Dureza said in his briefing, when asked about the 60-day window offered by the President to Sison.

Dureza said peace negotiations have spanned "several presidencies" and there is a need to determine why the peace process has not succeeded through the years.

"We need to look deeper why (the peace talks) is always disrupted when the governments have very earnest efforts, also the other side, in looking for direction for the peace negotiations," Dureza said.

The decision to hold off the talks came after President Duterte met in a closed-door command conference with the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) and the Philippine National Police (PNP) Wednesday evening.

"During a meeting with the President last night and after close inputs from those who are with us, the President said, 'Let's reset, give us time to work some more, so that whatever agreement we will sign eventually, will be implementable,'" he said.

"There is still a need for more work on the side of the government," Dureza added.

No problem with AFP, PNP

Asked if the AFP and the

PNP had voiced reservations regarding the talks, Dureza said the President gave weight to inputs from security forces and other sectors.

"The President is very careful, especially in addressing the long drawn un-peace in the land," he said. "This is long, not easy road to peace but we have to take that road."

Dureza said there is no standing order from the commander-in-chief to pursue operations against rebel groups. He stressed an enabling environment is needed for the peace talks to succeed.

"Engaging the bigger public will be the priority," he said. "Remember, this is a very long drawn situation of unpeace in the land. The President wanted to see that the agreements will get support from the public," he said.

Dureza noted it was only Sison who had prematurely announced the resumption of the talks by end of the month.

"The decision now is, let us not squander this last chance. Let us do everything possible, and in due time, we are able to make certain definitive decisions," Dureza said, as he stressed the need to address the root causes of the conflict.

"In our common effort to make sure that we achieve a conducive and enabling environment for peace, President Duterte instructed us last night to engage our bigger 'peace table' – the general public, as well as other sectors in government as we work to negotiate peace with the communist rebels," Dureza said.

"Consequently, the initial timeline that our backchannel team had worked on with their counterparts (CPP/NPA/NDF) 'across the table' had to be necessarily re-adjusted," he said.

"Our peace efforts (in order) to succeed should have good support from the general public, hence it is necessary that all efforts be exerted to inform and engage them in the same way as the government engages the rebels in addressing the root causes of conflict," he pointed out.

Earlier in the day, presidential spokesman Harry Roque Jr. said the President had sought the cooperation of the AFP and the PNP in the peace talks.

In a text message, PNP spokesman Senior Supt. Benigno Durana voiced support for the resumption of the talks with communist rebels.

"The PNP supports what-

ever initiatives the (government) panel takes to ensure the success of the peace talks and to achieve a just and lasting peace in our country," he said.

Concerns raised

Roque recalled that concerns had been raised regarding the possibility of leftist groups taking advantage of the delays in the talks to regroup and strengthen their forces.

"The government peace panel in cooperation with the private sector will continue on its efforts to engage those who earnestly seek peace. But it is equally important that the stakeholders on the ground must also be equally engaged through consultations to ensure that all those consensus points and agreements forged in the negotiation table have palpable support from them," Dureza said.

"We are now at the cusp of some major breakthroughs in the peace talks, hence the urgent need now to take deliberate steps to ensure that we do not falter," Dureza said.

"Just, sustainable and lasting peace will happen only when our people understand and support these efforts."

Roque, meanwhile, emphasized that the AFP and the

PNP had made a commitment to the President to support the peace talks.

"You can appreciate that the President also wants the cooperation of our men in uniform in the peace talks, and it appears that both the PNP and the AFP are fully supportive of the peace talks," Roque said, hours before Dureza made his announcement.

"We need to end what the Guinness Book of World Records has described as the longest ongoing insurgency in the planet," Roque said.

He also stressed Sison won't be put behind bars if and when he returns to the country as there is no pending warrant for his arrest.

"(Sison) is in the list of terrorists maintained by the state department – the response we got yesterday is that Joma Sison has no outstanding warrant of arrest," Roque said.

"So probably there's no basis for him to be apprehended. There is no impediment for him to come home. But what was clear yesterday is that the peace talks will have to proceed. There's a preference for the peace talks to proceed in the Philippines," he pointed out.

— With Emmanuel Tupas

NAVY MODERNIZING BUT SHIPS DON'T HAVE PORTS TO DOCK IN

By Jeannette I. Andrade
@jiandradeINQ

The Philippine Navy has been very aggressive in modernizing its fleet but one of its biggest problems was where to dock five ships "with deep drafts," according to Vice Adm. Robert Empedrad, Navy flag officer in command.

"They are always anchored at sea with their engines running," Empedrad said in an interview with dwDD, the official radio station of the Armed Forces of the Philippines.

He said contrary to common perception that the Philippine Navy was lagging behind its Asian neighbors, the modernization program was turning the Navy into a world-class fighting force.

Empedrad said in July the Navy would test its first missile, adding that President Duterte wanted to see it.

Impressed

Mr. Duterte, Empedrad said, was so impressed by the Navy's display of capability during its 120th anniversary celebration that the President wanted the Navy to have submarines next.

"The trend now is submarine warfare," Empedrad said. "It's very hard to find an en-

emy that you cannot see. Submarines are hard to detect," he said.

The Navy, he added, had sent staff for training abroad in preparation for acquiring submarines "which can take from seven to 10 years."

Attack helicopters due for delivery in March next year from the United Kingdom were also "antisubmarine warfare helicopters" fitted with torpedoes, he said.

Part of the modernization program was to acquire missiles and torpedoes and craft new doctrines and protocols, Empedrad said.

Preparations

Modernization, he said, required parallel preparations for personnel, equipment and support upgrade.

He said, however, that these would need a lot of funds.

A missile-capable frigate was worth P8 billion each while helicopters armed with torpedoes cost P2.75 billion each.

"We are talking of billions worth of equipment that would only go to waste if we don't prepare," Empedrad said.

A surface-to-air missile costs P10 million while torpedoes and huge surface-to-surface missiles cost P100 million each, the Navy chief said. INQ

Duterte orders PNP to halt Kadamay

By **Angie M. Rosales**
and **Jason Faustino**

President Rodrigo Duterte has put his foot down on urban poor group Kalipunan ng Damayang Mahihirap's (Kadamay) seizing of vacant government housing units as he ordered yesterday the Philippine National Police (PNP) to put an end to the group's escapades.

Presidential spokesperson Harry Roque said Duterte issued the directive after Kadamay members attempted to expropriate a housing project for policemen and soldiers in Rizal province.

Senators backed Mr. Duterte's move, saying he is upholding the rule of law in barring Kadamay from occupying idle housing units.

Sen. JV Ejercito and Minority Leader Franklin Drilon made similar calls on enforcing the rule of law on Kadamay members.

The problem on idle housing units may have been the result of lack of attention from the previous regime as a National Housing Authority (NHA) official said some 65,000 housing units were built by the Aquino administration for low-salaried government workers and poor families.

National Housing Association

Turn to page 2

Duterte orders PNP to halt Kadamay

From page 1

(NHA) general manager Marcelino Escalada said the previous administration built around 72,000 housing units in total, but only 18,000 of these were occupied.

He said the other houses remained vacant, since the units were "poorly-constructed, cramped and far-flung."

The NHA, he said, is addressing reports that some housing projects also lack power and water lines.

Rights of others violated

"Amid the problems we have on the lack of shelter, it is not a solution to violate the rights of others. This is too much. It is anarchy. We should not let this pass since it would not help in solving the problem of lack of housing," Ejercito said.

Roque said Duterte also directed the National Housing Authority (NHA) to explain why it has so many idle housing units.

In March last year, thousands of members of the group occupied an idle NHA housing site

intended for troops in Pandi, Bulacan.

Mr. Duterte eventually allowed the Kadamay members to stay in the housing project they occupied.

"In the past, the President allowed Kadamay to occupy housing projects intended for soldiers in Pandi, Bulacan but if you will recall, the President said that would be the first and the last," Roque said.

"Given this latest attempt, the President has given a directive to the police that Kadamay should not be allowed to take over these

housing units," he added.

NHA asked on idle units

"He also asked the NHA when they intend to distribute these (idle) housing units to the intended beneficiaries," he said.

Roque said a case will be filed against the illegal dwellers if Kadamay again tries to occupy the NHA housing units.

"Then, they will have to deal with the full extent of the law. The role of the President is to implement the law, he will implement the law," he said.

Duterte to PNP: Stop Kadamay housing takeover

By **GENALYN D. KABILING, AARON B. RECUENCO,** and **HANNAH L. TORBEGOZA**

President Duterte has ordered the Philippine National Police (PNP) to prevent the militant urban poor group Kadamay from taking over government housing units following an attempt to occupy another project in Rodriguez, Rizal.

Presidential spokesman Harry Roque said the Kadamay members would face the "full extent of the law" if they forcibly occupy another housing project intended for other beneficiaries.

"In the past, President allowed Kadamay to occupy government housing project intended for soldiers in Pandi. But if you will recall, the President said that would be the first and the last. Given this latest attempt, ►11

Duterte to PNP...

◀1

the President has given directives to the police that Kadamay should not be allowed to take over these housing units," he said in a Palace press briefing.

Roque said the National Housing Authority (NHA) has also been directed by the President to explain why the housing project remains idle and when they plan to give the units to the intended beneficiaries.

Around 500 Kadamay members stormed a housing project built by the government for soldiers and policemen in Rodriguez, Rizal, last Wednesday. The protesters claimed that the housing units have been idle for many years and should be given to the poor.

Local policemen reportedly secured the area from the Kadamay members who were forced to retreat from their housing takeover.

Kadamay warned

Roque said no charges would be filed against Kadamay since its members failed to occupy the government housing units. But he reminded Kadamay against taking the law into their own hands, saying they would be dealt with, with the full force of the law.

Director General Oscar Albayalde, PNP chief, warned that Kadamay members will be arrested if they occupy government housing projects for policemen and soldiers.

"I don't think that it is right to just occupy houses. Remember those houses were already either paid or

that some policemen or soldiers have already paid a down payment for those units," said Albayalde.

Albayalde said that Kadamay members might have been deemed it appropriate to occupy housing units after they were tolerated in occupying housing units in Bulacan.

"But this is a different story. They can be arrested for that," said Albayalde.

"Whether or not there is an order, if we see that they would just occupy houses that do not belong to them, that is trespassing. That's a violation of the law," he added.

Arrest them

Senators on Thursday called on the Duterte administration to file the necessary charges against members of the informal settlers' group Kalipunan ng Damayang Mahihirap (Kadamay) for trying to occupy anew a housing settlement intended by the government for military and police personnel.

"If they have transgressed our laws, they should be charged," Senate minority leader Franklin Drilon said in a press conference.

Drilon said this is what happens when the government fails to enforce the rule of law.

"As I have said earlier in relation to the spate of killings that we see, this is failure to enforce the rule of law. They get used to it if we neglect to implement the law."

Sen. Joseph Victor "JV" Ejercito echoed Drilon's call, saying the NHA and the local police force need to ensure the security of government housing projects given the fact this is not the first time this has happened.

"I am deeply concerned about the news that once again some members of the urban poor group Kadamay attempted to occupy the housing units allotted for our military and police personnel. We need to ensure that everyone follow the rule of law," Ejercito, chair of the Senate housing and urban resettlement committee, said.

"On one hand, it signifies a breakdown in law and order. On the other hand, it is a reflection of the failure of government to provide decent housing for our people," he pointed out.

"Sobra na ito. Anarchy. Di na dapat palampasin dahil hindi ito nakakatulong sa sitwasyon at problema sa programang pabahay (This is too much. Anarchy. We should not let this pass because doing so won't solve the situation and problems on housing programs)," he said.

"Hindi na pwede gamitin ang rason na sila ay mahihirap at napapabayaang Mahihirap din ang kanilang pimperwisyo na nakatira sa mga pabahay ngunit responsableng nagsisikap at nagbabayad sa NHA o Pag-IBIG (They cannot use the same reason again that they are poor and neglected. The ones they are harassing are responsible people and have started paying the right dues with the NHA or Pag-IBIG)," Ejercito pointed out.

would peacefully ask them to leave their target areas. Arrests will only be made should they start creating trouble and violate the peace, jeopardizing the lives and properties of others.

Some officials claimed that a number of those who occupied the housing projects in Rodriguez were known "professional squatters" or those who sell or rent government housing projects given to them and continue to live as "informal settlers" in unoccupied government or private lots while looking for a chance to avail of another government housing project.

On Wednesday, President Duterte ordered the PNP headed by Director General Oscar Albayalde to prevent members of Kadamay from occupying idle housing units for policemen and soldiers just like what the urban group did in Rodriguez, Rizal and in Pandi, Bulacan last year.

Other government housing projects for the PNP and the AFP are located in Bulacan, Rizal and Tarlac and some parts of Mindanao.

"They cannot take the law into their own hands," Presidential spokesman Harry Roque said while adding that the Kadamay's move in Rodriguez should be their "last."

Kadamay has defended their "invasion" of a housing project in Rodriguez town as part of their initiative to protect homes allegedly promised to them by the government.

Gloria Arellano, Kadamay national chairman, said they were forced to do a "bantayang bahay" protest after supposed beneficiaries from their group were passed over for other candidates.

With Alfred Dalzon and Jun Legaspi

PNP, AFP TO WATCH MILITANT URBAN GROUP'S MOVEMENT

Acting on orders of President Duterte, the Philippine National Police, with the help of the Armed Forces, would now watch the movements of the militant urban poor group Kadamay to prevent them from illegally occupying government housing projects for policemen and soldiers.

Police will be monitoring the activities of Kadamay members, specially when the group starts converging in a particular area and move to their target housing projects, the latest of which was in Rodriguez (formerly Montalban), Rizal, where they briefly occupied some police housing units until they were forced to leave by the police.

As a general rule, police will exercise maximum tolerance in dealing with the urban poor group and

'Kadamay to face full force of the law'

Malacañang warned on Thursday that it would not tolerate another move by the urban poor group Kalipunan ng Damayang Mahihirap (Kadamay) to occupy idle government housing projects anywhere in the country. Presidential spokesperson Harry Roque said the group would "face the full force of the law" after it failed to take over a project in Rizal. — STORY BY CHRISTINE O. AVENDAÑO, LEILA B. SALAVERRIA AND JEROME ANING

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PALACE TO KADAMAY: STOP OCCUPYING GOV'T HOUSING SITES

Malacañang on Thursday warned members of the urban poor group Kalipunan ng Damayang Mahihirap (Kadamay) against occupying government housing projects or they would "face the full extent of the law."

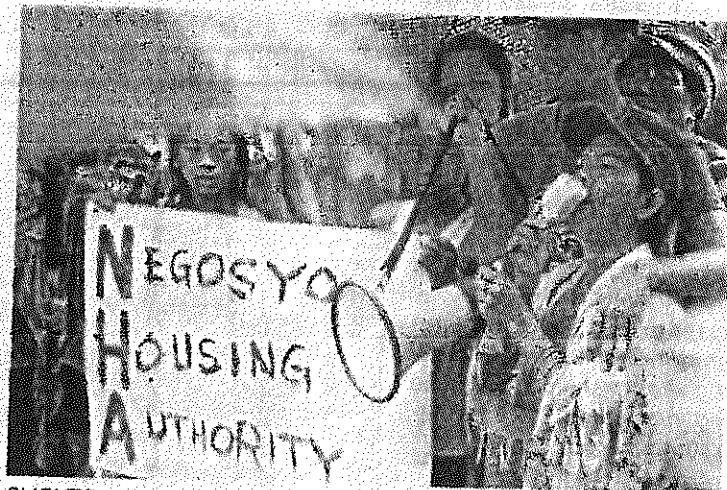
Presidential spokesperson Harry Roque said President Duterte had allowed Kadamay members to occupy a government housing project in Pandi town, Bulacan province, last year but noted that the President had also said "that will be the first and last (takeover)."

Roque issued the statement after 500 members of Kadamay attempted to take over a government housing project in Rodriguez town, Rizal province, on Wednesday.

They were, however, driven away by policemen from the housing project intended for police and military personnel.

NHA explanation

"Given the latest attempt, the President has given directives to the police that Kadamay should not be allowed to take over these housing units and an order has been directed to the National Housing Authority (NHA) to explain why



SHELTER CALL Amid heavy rain, members of Kadamay stage a protest at the National Housing Authority office in Rodriguez, Rizal, to press authorities to give them idle government housing units.—NIÑO JESUS ORBETA

we have idle housing units and when they intend to give these housing units to the intended beneficiaries," Roque said in a press briefing on Thursday.

Had the Kadamay members been successful in occupying the housing project in Rizal, they would have been "forcibly taken out and charged," Roque said.

"But since they did not succeed in their attempt [on Wednesday], possibly there will be no charges filed," he added.

Roque reiterated the Presi-

dent's warning to the Kadamay members not to take the law into their hands.

"They will have to deal with the full extent of the law. The role of the President is to implement the law. He will implement the law," he said.

Law and order breakdown

Senate Minority Leader Franklin Drilon said the administration must file charges against those who would violate the law, after it had essentially condoned Kadamay's

first takeover of government housing units.

"This is failure, to enforce the rule of law. They get used to it when we do not enforce the law," Drilon said at the Kapihan sa Senado forum.

Sen. JV Ejercito, who chairs the Senate housing committee, agreed, saying Kadamay's latest attempt to take over housing units "signifies a breakdown in law and order."

It also underscored the government's failure to provide decent housing to the people, Ejercito said.

Housing the poor

Still, he said forcibly taking over houses intended for police and military personnel was improper.

Anakpawis Rep. Ariel Casilao called on the NHA yesterday to speed up the implementation of resolution by Congress that would have distributed idle, unawarded and unoccupied government housing projects to the poor.

He said Joint Resolution No. 2 was approved by Mr. Duterte more than a month ago — **REPORTS FROM CHRISTINE O. AVENDAÑO, LEILA B. SALAVERRIA, AND JEROME ANING INQ**

Rody won't allow another Kadamay takeover

By EMMANUEL TUPAS

President Duterte will not allow another takeover of housing units by Kadamay and ordered the Philippine National Police (PNP) to arrest members of the urban poor group if they continue occupying government-funded housing projects.

PNP chief Director General Oscar Albayalde said the President issued the order after Kadamay (Kalipunan ng Damayang Mahihirap) attempted to occupy the idle housing units intended for policemen and soldiers in Rodriguez, Rizal on Wednesday.

Albayalde said he will not hesitate to order their arrest if they continue grabbing housing units, just like what they did in Pandi, Bulacan.

"That is trespassing. They can be arrested for that," Albayalde said.

The urban poor group led other informal settlers in grabbing the idle housing units in Pandi in March 2017.

A month later, Duterte allowed the Kadamay members to occupy the housing units, as long they do not harass the policemen and soldiers who were already living there.

Duterte called on the policemen and soldiers to be patient and promised better housing for them.

On Wednesday, at least 100 members of Kadamay attempted to occupy the idle housing units in Rodriguez.

Some of the residents nearby

frustrated the attempt by calling on policemen to prevent the takeover.

Albayalde stressed the need to put an end to Kadamay's activities, which he said are contrary to law.

"Whether there is an order or not, if we see them just occupying properties, that is a violation of the law," he said.

Albayalde chided Kadamay for forcing the issue. He said some of the housing units they tried to occupy were already owned.

"They should not abuse our President. If they resist, then there is nothing we can do," he said.

Presidential spokesman Harry Roque said the President has given directives to the PNP that Kadamay should not be allowed to again take over housing units intended for soldiers and policemen.

Roque said the President has asserted that Kadamay's takeover in Bulacan "should be the first and the last."

Two senators condemned the latest attempt by Kadamay to take over housing units.

Sen. Joseph Victor Ejercito said he was deeply concerned with the latest action taken by Kadamay, which he said "signifies a breakdown in law and order."

"On the other hand, it is a reflection of the failure of government to provide decent housing for our people," Ejercito said.

- With Marvin Sy

h.

Duterte warns Kadamay group

By Vito Barcelo

PRESIDENT Rodrigo Duterte warned all members of Kadamay from taking over vacant government housing projects or risked facing the full extent of the law, according to Presidential Spokesman Harry Roque.

Roque also said the President had directed the Philippine National Police to stop members of the urban poor group from occupying the socialized housing units of the National Housing Authority.

The directive was made following the foiled attempt by Kadamay members to occupy another housing project intended for police and military in Rizal province.

Last year, members of Kadamay forcibly

occupied an idle NHA housing site intended for soldiers in Pandi, Bulacan.

But the President allowed the Kadamay members to stay in their occupied units.

Roque gave assurances this incident would not be repeated, saying "this would be the first and the last."

The President would no longer allow a repeat of Bulacan incident as he issued a stern warning that they would have to deal with the full extent of the law.

"The role of the President is to implement the law, he will implement the law," he said.

AV

PH

ment is how fishermen from the three countries can go through their with trade, the quantity of fish they can take from the area, as well as how to promote sustainable fishing activity so as not to deplete the marine resources, he said.

He said Beijing would most likely reject a fishing agreement with the Philippines and Vietnam because it does not recognize the ruling of the arbitral tribunal and did not even participate in the case when it was filed in 2013.

Earlier, Carpio said if Beijing re-

fuses to cooperate and allow Filipino fishermen to fish in Scarborough, the government can go back to the arbitral tribunal and file a case to block China's application for permit to explore the seabed before the international seabed authority.

Carpio also said that the statement of the Chinese Embassy that it is allowing Filipinos to fish in Scarborough "out of goodwill" has no basis in international law as the arbitral ruling made clear that while the government cannot invoke territorial rights because it has not been declared part of our territory, it also stated that the area

is a traditional fishing ground not only of Chinese fishermen but also Filipinos and Vietnamese.

"They're saying that it is out of their goodwill, of the goodness of their heart but that's not what the arbitral ruling says," he said.

The issue over the shoal hogged the headlines recently due to the alleged harassment of Chinese Coast Guard personnel of Filipino fishermen.

But Chinese Ambassador Zhao Jianhua said if the allegations are true that their Coast Guard personnel are boarding the boats of Filipino fishermen reportedly

to grab their catch, the involved personnel will be punished.

A statement issued by the Chinese Embassy Tuesday said Filipino fishermen are being allowed to fish in the shoal "out of goodwill." This is in contrast to a statement of Foreign Affairs Secretary Alan Peter Cayetano on Sunday that Manila and Beijing have forged a fisheries agreement as equal parties in the shoal.

Cayetano has said the Chinese envoy has assured him that if Chinese Coast Guard personnel indeed harassed the Filipino fishermen, then the violators will be apprehended and punished. *B/*

Duterte lashes out at Kadamay, leftist groups

BY JOCELYN MONTEMAYOR

PRESIDENT Duterte yesterday lashed out at the members of the Kalipunan ng Damayang Mahihirap (Kadamay) and other left-leaning militant groups after another supposed attempt to take over a government housing project in Rodriguez in Rizal the other day.

The President, at the oath-taking of some 4,000 newly elected barangay officials from the Calabarzon region, said he is giving Kadamay until noon today to leave the property in Rizal, or he would send the Special Action Force of the PNP to

force them out.

Duterte had also ordered the police to prevent all attempts of Kadamay to take over any of the government housing units even if it results in death.

"Ako nagwa warning ha... Kung gusto ninyo ng away, sabihin ko sa pulis bigyan mo nang away... kung kailangan pumatay kayo para i-implement ang legal na regulasyon, gawin ninyo. Mamatayan lima, anim, pitong, wala ako pakialam (I am warning). If you want a fight, I will tell the police to give you a fight. If it you need to kill to

See DUTERTE > Page B2

DUTERTE

implement legal regulations, do it. If it leads to deaths, five six, seven, I don't care," he said.

The President noted he warned Kadamay last year when they forcibly occupied some housing units intended for the soldiers in Pandi in Bulacan. He gave the Kadamay members the units but said he does not want a repeat of the incident. He also promised soldiers and policemen he would give them bigger and better units.

Duterte yesterday said he does not lack compassion for human

beings but he would not allow "insulting" actions.

"I will give you until noon tomorrow, umalis kayo (leave) and I will order the SAF to go in. Pag-ka-lumaban kayo at namatay kayo, problema ninyo iyan (if you fight and die, that's your problem)," he said adding that everyone is aware that when he makes a promise he delivers.

The President said he would not be hostaged by Kadamay or other militant group and lashed out at them for their practice of holding rallies and burning his effigies.

Duterte said he some would

even urinate at his effigies before burning those, and he expects this to again happen when militant groups hold rallies during his state of nation address next month.

"Mukha ko sinusunog ninyo, tapos maghingi ka sa amin ng bahay, gago ka ba?... Iniihian ninyo mukha ko, sinusunog, ngayon mahingi kayo ng tulong, T*** I** ninyo problema ninyo iyan. Sino tinatakot ninyo? Ako? (You burn my face, then you would ask for a house, are you a fool?... you urinate on my face, you burn it, now you ask for help? M***** I***** that your problem. Who are you

trying to scare? Me?)," he said.

Around 700 Kadamay members in Rizal tried to get into the La Solidaridad-Avilon Zoo housing project in Rodriguez on Wednesday, claiming that the police housing sites had been idle for several years now and should be given to homeless.

Police prevented them from occupying any housing unit, and they left the area Wednesday afternoon, police said.

Kadamay members in March last year forcibly occupied vacant housing units for policemen and soldiers in parts of Bulacan.

Stop Chinese from bullying Pinoy fishers, Rody asked

By CHRISTINA MENDEZ

The mayor of Masinloc, the coastal town in Zambales nearest Panatag (Scarborough) Shoal, is appealing to President Duterte for help in stopping Chinese coast guards from bullying and disrupting the livelihood of Filipino fishermen.

Mayor Arsenia Lim was at Malacañang yesterday to personally relay her plea to the President.

"We are asking our President to help our fishermen, so that they can catch fish without being bullied, and to be able to seek shelter when the winds are strong," Lim said.

She confirmed the fishermen's complaint that they were being forced by the Chinese to surrender some of their catch. The latest incident happened last month and was captured on video, aired recently by *GMA News*.

She also belied a statement from Chinese Ambassador Zhao Jianhua that the incident was a form of barter trade. Lim said the fishermen had to give up part of their catch as "toll fee" for access to the shoal.

"We don't need to ask permission but the position of the Masinloc local government unit is (to protect) their rights to live for now, so that they can fish properly," she said.

Masinloc is considered the gateway to Panatag Shoal, also known as Bajo de Masinloc. The shoal is well within the Philippines' exclusive economic zone.

Lim said the local officials are coordinating with the Northern Luzon Command and proper agencies to advance the concerns of local

fishermen.

Aside from reports that Chinese fishermen were taking giant clams from the vicinity of Panatag Shoal, the Philippine Coast Guard (PCG) is also verifying information the Chinese were also harvesting corals.

PCG Subic station commander Paolo Abejuela said that in a public consultation organized by the local government of Zambales yesterday morning, a fisherman reported that foreign fishermen, suspected to be Chinese nationals, were harvesting corals around the shoal.

"One of the fishermen present during the public consultation said that one of the problems that they encountered before were suspected Chinese fishermen who were taking corals" from Panatag Shoal, said Abejuela.

"But since the incident took place more than a year ago, the fisherman had difficulty recalling the details... That's one of the experiences of one of the fishermen that needs to be validated," he added.

He said that taking corals is a violation of the Philippine Fisheries Code.

The corals are also vital in preserving the marine ecosystem since they serve as breeding grounds for different fish species. But some people use them as ornaments.

"We would also coordinate with the other fisherfolk in the province of Zambales and would instruct our sub-station commanders to interact with the fishermen in their respective areas and engage in conversations and see if we could get more information from them," he said.

10
- With Evelyn Macairan

We won't concede to China — Palace

MALACAÑANG on Thursday said the Philippines is not conceding to China the country's traditional fishing rights in the Panatag (Scarborough) Shoal amid a controversial fish-taking incident in the area.

In a news conference, Palace spokesman Harry Roque described as "fish thievery" the actions of Chinese coast guards getting the catch of Filipino fishermen.

"We do not concede [to China]," Roque told reporters, amid the warning of Acting Chief Justice Antonio Carpio that the Philippines may lose its legal right to fish in Panatag if it concedes to China's narrative that it

➤ **ConcedeA2**

only allowed Filipino fishermen there "out of goodwill."

"So for lack of better word, let's call it *pangongotong* in Tagalog [a Philippine language], which is fish thievery. I have never really addressed it as barter, but there's a possibility given the language barrier that they consider it as barter but from our point of view it is not. I hope that's clear," he said.

But when all else fails, according to Foreign Affairs Secretary Alan Peter Cayetano, diplomacy and prayer — not war — will help resolve the issue.

Speaking to reporters after the launching of the passport ePayment system of the Department of Foreign Affairs, Cayetano also on Thursday said that while diplomacy involves a slow process, it has produced good results and given Filipino fishermen the opportunity to fish freely in the area once again.

"Prayer is also important. I am praying every day and I am praying hard for a miracle to happen and resolve all issues in the West Philippines Sea [South China Sea]," he added.

Geng Shuang, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman, earlier said they have only been allowing Filipino fishermen to fish in Panatag Shoal "out of goodwill."

Roque said he does not care if Filipino fishermen are allowed to fish in Panatag Shoal out of China's "goodwill," as what matters is that they now have access to the shoal's resources.

"Actually, I don't care what the reason is. But as counsel for the fishermen, they are able to fish now under the administration of President [Rodrigo] Duterte. To me as their counsel, as their former counsel, that's what matters," he added.

Roque was the legal counsel to fishermen who protested China's harassment in Panatag during the Aquino administration.

"Because when we sue China, that's for violation of the right to life and the right to livelihood. They have now a livelihood. I leave it here for now," he said.

Filipino fishermen also earlier asked for the government's help amid complaints that Chinese coast guards have been forcefully taking their best catch in Panatag Shoal off Zambales.

Malacañang has urged Beijing to prevent the unacceptable situation from happening again.

Not a single kilo of fish should be taken by the Chinese

CHINA OUT

Activist fishermen stage a swimming protest along the waters of Manila Bay on Thursday, calling on China to get out of the West Philippine Sea (WPS) and to condemn the harassment of Filipino fishermen in the resource-rich waters. PHOTO BY RUSSELL PALMA

from the Filipino fishermen, according to Roque.

Beijing, in turn, has committed to investigate the alleged misconduct of its coast guards and impose sanctions if allegations are proven.

It assured it has no policy of harassing Filipino fishermen in the South China Sea.

China seized control of Panatag Shoal, an area within the Philippines' exclusive economic zone, after a standoff between Philippine and Chinese vessels in 2012.

Beijing prevented Filipino fishermen from entering the shoal, prompting the Aquino government to seek United Nations arbitration.

The arbitration court nullified China's sweeping claims in the West Philippine Sea (South China Sea), saying it violated the Philippines' sovereign rights by building artificial islands and interfering with fishing activities.

Mayor Arsenia Lim of Masinloc, Zambales, described the controversial fish-taking incident in Panatag as a "toll" system, not a barter trade, in the middle of the ocean.

Lim, in an interview in Malacñang on Thursday, said Masinloc fishermen, being good people who do not want to pick fights, have agreed to give the fish to the Chinese rather than risk losing access to the shoal.

But the mayor appealed to the government to help ensure local fishermen can fish in Panatag free from any bullying.

She said there are about 5,000 fishermen living in Masinloc, but

only a small fraction can sail to Panatag Shoal.

"Hinihiling namin kay Presidente na mapangisda sila na hindi nabu-bully at sa oras ng malakas ang hangin ay makasilong sila sa lagoon [We ask the President to ensure they can fish without being bullied and in case of strong winds, they are allowed to seek shelter in the lagoon]," Lim added.

"Sana makapangisda ng maayos ang aking mga kababayan at hindi sila nasasaktan [We hope our countrymen can fish freely and will not be harmed]," the mayor said.

In Iba, also in Zambales, majority of fishermen from the province also on Thursday requested authorities to stop the Chinese coast guards stationed at the Scarborough Shoal from taking their catch in exchange for water or cigarettes.

Attending a dialogue and consultative forum organized by the Northern Luzon Command (Nolcom) of the Philippine Army along with the provincial government of Zambales at the People's Park in Iba, the fishermen asked the government to put a stop to the practice as it was depriving them of their hard-earned catch.

Roseller Latagen, 50, told *The Manila Times* that the coast guard would take as much as P3,000 worth of their fish catch in exchange for two small bottles of mineral water.

Latagen said they are only allowed to fish near Scarborough Shoal for two to three months in a

year while Chinese fishermen, who even destroy corals, are allowed to fish year round.

Angelico Pilon, a 72-year-old fisherman from Masinloc, echoed Latagen, saying they hope that the government can help them so they can be allowed inside the shoal to enable them to fish unmo- lested and seek refuge there during storms like in the past.

Floro Delegencia, another fisherman from Masinloc, recalled that one time, Chinese coast guard members boarded their boat with bottles of beer and cigarettes.

Other fishermen stood up to say nice words about the Chinese, saying the latter were kind and helpful.

Rolly Bernal, a leader of a fisherfolk group in Masinloc, said big boats are not allowed inside the shoal, depriving Filipino fishermen of a good catch.

Commodore Nichols Driz, commander of the Naval Forces North Luzon Armed Forces of the Philippines, said the fishermen's complaints and suggestions will give the government an idea on how to better serve the fishermen especially those near Panatag Shoal.

Zambales Gov. Amor Deloso, who also attended the forum, said fishing is an important livelihood in Zambales and he has refused big industries along the coastline of the province to avoid destroying the livelihood of the fisherfolk.

**CATHERINE S. VALENTE,
JEFFERSON ANTIPORDA AND
PATRICK ROXAS**

We must do what Vietnam, Taiwan, China and other Spratly claimants did: Build, build, build

BY RIGOBERTO TIGLAO
Columnist

RATHER than throwing racist diatribes at China and engaging in endless eristic blah-blahs on who owns what in the South China Sea region, we should do what all claimants in the Spratlys have done or have been doing in the past two decades.

Instead of filing useless suits in international bodies, which have no force anyway, and begging the world to help us enforce the law of the sea as President Aquino 3rd did, let's do what China, Vietnam, Malaysia and Taiwan have been doing since the 1980s: Secure whatever we now occupy. "Build, build, build" on our properties in the disputed area.

► TiglaosA8

The principle in international territorial disputes is a version of the legal principle "Possession is nine-tenths of the law." And possession is enhanced and strengthened if Claimant A that occupies a particular island or reef, in the case of the South China Sea, builds facilities there that it would require so much violence by claimant B to eject Claimant A that the world community would likely intervene.

This is what President Marcos in fact did when he grabbed the Kalayaan group of islands in the Spratly archipelago in 1974 and decreed it to be a municipality of Palawan. He renamed the biggest island Pag-asa, stationed a fully-armed army and marine detachment, and built an airstrip—the first such to be constructed in the Spratlys—that could be used even by C-130 transport planes.

All administrations after Marcos did nothing else, so that the airstrip has been eroded by the sea that it has become hazardous even for small planes to use.

In the past two decades though, other claimants aped what Marcos did.

While the US and the Aquino regime whipped up a frenzy against China's fortifications on its claimed reefs, Vietnam, starting in the 1980s had also built structures on all of the 21 islands and reefs that it controlled, or occupied.

Pugad (Southwest Cay) was a barren islet when the South Vietnamese grabbed it from us in 1975, after tricking our Marines into leaving the island for an overnight party in a nearby island. Now it is a garrison with over a dozen buildings and barracks (see image).

In 2000, Vietnam built an airstrip on its biggest island Truong Sa (in the Spratlys group) and doubled its size in 2016 so it could be used by its largest war-planes. Reuters in 2016 reported that Vietnam had discreetly fortified several of its islands in the disputed South China Sea with mobile rocket launchers capable of striking China's runways and military installations.

Vietnam shames us. A nation ravaged by war, it is much poorer than us, with a GDP per capita

of only \$2,200 compared to our \$3,000. Yet it spent billions of dollars to build up its sovereignty in the Spratly islands. The Aquino 3rd government spent nothing to secure Pag-asa Island, yet dispensed P220 billion as pork barrel funds, including the P10 billion that was used to bribe the Senate to boot out one of the best Chief Justices we ever had.

Check out what Malaysia did. It sent in 1983 its special forces to just grab Swallow Reef which Vietnam and China claimed, asserting unilaterally that it was part of its continental shelf.

Renaming it Layang-Layang, Malaysia built an airport there with two hangars, a radar station, an air traffic control tower, watchtowers, a jetty, and a marine research facility. Just in the past few years, it built there a five-star resort, which has been gaining a reputation as a top-of-the-line scuba diving destination. Layang-Layang's official website gives no hint at all that it is in the disputed Spratlys.

The largest island in the Spratlys, Itu Taba (or Taiping Island) is occupied by an entity most countries in the world do not recognize as a sovereign nation: Taiwan. Although it had a marine detachment stationed there starting in 1956, Taiwan went on a build, build, build spree only in 2000.

It now has an airport there, capable of accommodating military planes, a port that could berth navy destroyers, and four-story bunkers. Yet the arbitral court ruling that largely favored the Philippine suit, claimed that Taiping island was just a "rock."

Mainly because China and Vietnam in the early 1970s were too economically and military weak, the other claimants – including us—managed to occupy the “choice” properties in the Spratlys, that is, the islands and islets.

By the time China became a military power, the choice properties had been taken, and it could occupy only seven reefs, which other claimants including us had ignored or decided too expensive to build structures on.

By comparison, we control six islands and islets (Pag-asa being the largest), and two reefs. Vietnam is actually the biggest “landowner” in the Spratlys with

21 islands, islets and reefs. It has managed to transform several of its reefs into artificial islands.

Let's be objective: If you just had seven features in the Spratlys, all reefs, and you had the necessary funds, wouldn't you transform those into artificial islands – as China did?

We had choice properties, but failed to develop them. The Aquino regime spent P500 million – P300 million in fees paid to an American law firm – for its arbitration award against China, which hasn't been and cannot be enforced. The better use of that P500 million would have been to repair and extend our airstrip in Pag-asa and build structures on all

our islets and reefs in the Spratlys.

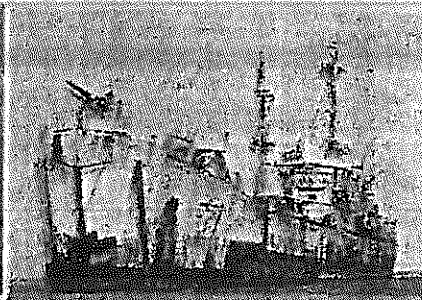
I propose that we take these two major steps:

1. Congress should immediately allocate P10 billion to build structures – buildings, lighthouses, piers, marine-life stations, even dive resorts in our South China Sea properties. The Estrada government grounded a rusty, World War 2 vintage ship in Ayungin Shoal to serve as our outpost there. That is a national shame. If the Senate intends to spend P10 billion just for a new swanky building, I'm sure Congress can allocate that much to assert our sovereignty in the area of the South China Sea that we have boldly renamed as

the West Philippine Sea. That P10 billion though would certainly not be enough, compared to what China, Vietnam, Malaysia and Taiwan have spent to secure their properties in the South China Sea.

2. Congress must enact a law that would make the Kalayaan Island Group (KIG) a Special Administrative Region directly under the President, with the necessary annual budgets necessary to build structures there and oversee its development, on the same level as the Clark Freeport and Special Economic Zone and the Subic Bay Freeport Zone. The Republic would be slowed down in developing the KIG if it remains in its status now as a mere municipality of Palawan province.

The past four regimes' total mismanagement of our properties in the South China Sea is an embarrassment before the world. The Aquino regime merely did what the US wanted, which was to embarrass China in a world forum. Duterte must change all this. His “build, build, build” program must extend to our properties in the Spratlys.



■ Pag-asa island with its airport built by Marcos in 1974 (left). Our other “structure” (right), a rusty ship grounded on Ayungin Shoal.

PH blasts Chinese CG for 'fish thievery'

By Vito Barcelo, Rey E. Requejo and Macon Ramos-Araneta

A PALACE spokesman on Thursday described the actions of Chinese coast guards as "fish thievery," and said the Philippines concedes nothing in terms of fishing rights in the Scarborough or Panatag shoal.

"For lack of a better word, let's call it *pangongotong* in Tagalog, which is fish thievery," Presidential Spokesman Harry Roque said of the habit of Chinese coast guards to board Filipino fishing boats there and take part of their catch.

He also contested the term "barter" used by Chinese Ambassador Zhao Jinhua, who pointed out that the Filipino fishermen were given noodles, cigarets and water in return.

"There's a possibility given the language barrier that they consider it as a barter but from our point of view it is not," Roque said.

Reacting to acting Chief Justice Antonio Carpio's warning that the Philippines could be giving up its rights to fish in Panatag Shoal after China declared that Filipino fishermen were allowed to fish there "out of goodwill," Roque said the country concedes nothing. *Next page*

PH...

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He added that what is important is that fishermen are again able to enter the area and fish under the Duterte administration.

"We have communicated the fact that we view this to be wrong and the Chinese have said that they are looking into it. Let's await the results of the investigation," Roque said of the incidents involving the Chinese coast guards.

Foreign Affairs Secretary Alan Peter Cayetano, meanwhile, said the Philippines cannot send its Coast Guard to the Panatag Shoal under a "tentative fishing agreement" with China.

Cayetano said that during the previous administration, the country lost control of the shoal and Filipino fishermen were not allowed to enter the area.

"We won't solve our territorial dispute by positioning our Coast Guard ships there. The tough guy approach just won't work," Cayetano told the reporters in an ambush interview.

"Only their ships are inside. If we send a ship to go inside, for us it won't be an aggressive act, but what will we do if they block us?" Cayetano said.

The row over Panatag Shoal began in April 2012, when China stopped the Philippines from arresting Chinese fishermen who were caught catching turtles and other protected marine life.

The standoff ended when then President Benigno Aquino III pulled out Philippine vessels from the area because of bad weather.

Since the pullout, China has taken control of the shoal, Cayetano said.

Today, because Duterte has reached out to China, Filipino fishermen are allowed into Panatag again, he added.

In a Malacañang press conference on Monday, fisherman Rommel Sihuela confirmed that China has control over Panatag Shoal and said China "allows" them to fish there.

He also added that there are no Philippine Coast Guard vessels patrolling in the area.

Roque presented Sihuela and two other fishermen on Monday to describe the real state of Panatag Shoal.

Over the past years, China has claimed some of the features of the disputed South China Sea particularly the Philippine-owned-reefs-turned-islands in the Kalayaan Group of Islands (Spratlys) where Beijing has installed weapon system in the region.

The reclamation in the South China Sea started when a standoff developed between the Philippines and China in 2012.

China's activities over the disputed sea became more visible when the Philippines filed a case before the Arbitral Tribunal, which eventually ruled in favor of Manila in 2016 and declared Beijing's 9-dash line claims as excessive and illegal.

China has refused to recognize the jurisdiction of the court and did not participate in any of its hearings.

Earlier, Carpio had warned that the Philippines may lose its legal rights to fish in Panatag Shoal if it accepts China's assertion that it only allows Filipinos to fish there "out of goodwill."

PH, China, Vietnam asked to forge fishing pact in Panatag

BY ASHZEL HACHERO

ACTING Chief Justice Antonio Carpio yesterday called on the governments of the Philippines, Vietnam, and China to come up with an agreement to govern fishing of their citizens in the Scarborough Shoal (Panatag Shoal) some 230 kilometers off the coast of Zambales.

In an interview over CNN

Philippines, Carpio said there is a need for such an agreement since the 2016 ruling of the Permanent Court of Arbitration that invalidated China's massive claims in the South China Sea under its so-called nine dash line ruled that the disputed shoal is a traditional fishing ground for Filipino, Vietnamese and Chinese fishermen.

"So this means we have a right to fish, the Vietnamese have a right to

fish, the Chinese have a right to fish," said Carpio, who was one of those instrumental in the country's winning the arbitral case against Beijing.

"They (Philippines, Vietnam and China) should sit down and discuss the rules of fishing, on how to fish within the shoal," he added.

Among issues that can be discussed or contained in an agree-

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Rody scraps talks with Reds

Joma to pursue 'people's war'

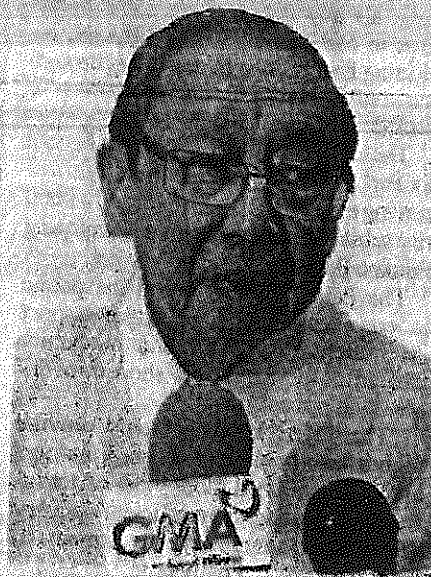
By Joyce Pangco Pañares

PRESIDENT Rodrigo Duterte has scrapped the resumption of formal negotiations with the Communist Party of the Philippines-National Democratic Front amid concerns that the rebel group is using the peace talks to regroup and secure its jailed leaders.

CPP founding chairman and NDF chief political consultant Jose Ma. Sison immediately retaliated by calling the official explanation of presidential peace adviser Jesus Dureza "bullshit" as he ordered the New People's Army to "wage a people's war" against the government.

Dureza said the President's decision to postpone the peace negotiations will allow the government to engage a "bigger peace table" to include the public and other sectors in government.

"Because the government under Duterte is obviously not interested in serious peace negotiations, the revolutionary forces and the people have no choice but to single-mindedly wage people's war to achieve the national and social liberation of the Filipino people," Sison said in a statement released from Utrecht.



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Rody...

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"We call the bullshit of Dureza about having the biggest peace table with the public... Duterte just wants me to return to the Philippines and resume the talks there so he can control the peace talks. Duterte is a control and homicidal maniac," Sison told Manila Standard in a separate interview.

A well-placed source who was privy to Wednesday evening's joint Armed Forces of the Philippines-Philippine National Police Command Conference in Malacañang said Duterte reached the decision to "reset" the peace talks following Sison's several pronouncements on the timetable of the negotiations.

"The President reviewed the recent statements of Joma because it was Joma who was announcing that there will be a week-long 'stand down order' between the NDF and the government that will begin on June 21 and that the formal peace talks will resume on June 28. Is he the spokesman of the government? *Baka akala niya nanalo na sila sa giyera* [Perhaps he thought they already won the war]," the source said.

"How can Joma say there will be a ceasefire effective June 21? Sinong kausap niya? (Who is he talking to?) There are backchannel talks but nothing has been approved by the principal yet. Is he trying to preempt the government?" the source added.

Last week, a Manila regional trial court allowed five jailed communist leaders—CPP chairman Benito Tiamzon, Adelberto Silva, Rafael Baylosis, Randall Echanis and Vicente Ladlad—to travel

abroad and participate in the resumption of the peace talks as NDF consultants.

A separate source said Tiamzon and Baylosis, in particular, appeared to have already gone underground.

Dureza acknowledged that the suspension of the arrest warrants may be recalled with Duterte's decision, calling it a "necessary consequence" that will be resolved by the court which approved their bail.

Sison said the suspension of the bail bond for Tiamzon and his colleagues is expected already.

Sison also insisted that the June 21 and June 28 dates that he announced in the media were contained in written agreements signed by government chief negotiator Silvestre Bello III and NDF chief negotiator Fidel Agcaoili on June 9 and 10.

"It is starkly clear that the government under Duterte is not interested in serious peace negotiations with the NDF. It is interested vainly in obtaining the NDF capitulation under the guise of an indefinite ceasefire agreements," he added.

Defense chief Delfin Lorenzana, for his part, said the CPP and its armed wing, the New People's Army, have always used the peace talks to strengthen their organization.

"They have always done that—they regroup and recruit whenever we hold peace talks," he said in a phone interview.

National Security Adviser Hermogenes Esperon Jr., a former presidential peace adviser, said peace talks must resume "founded on a strong preliminary agreement on ceasefire and a clear agenda."

"Let us be cautious about it even as we must work fast," Esperon said.

Gov't defers talks with Reds

By GENALYN D. KABILING

The government has decided to defer the planned resumption of peace talks with the communist rebel group until public consultations on the initiative are conducted.

Presidential Adviser on the Peace

Process Jesus Dureza said President Duterte wanted to "reset" the peace talks with the communists and ordered the government peace panel to engage the public and obtain their support and understanding first.

The postponement of the revival of the peace nego- ▶ 11

Gov't defers talks...

tations was reached during the President's meeting with top security and peace officials in Malacañang last Wednesday.

Duterte, who has given a 60-day window for the two sides to hammer out a peace deal, had earlier said he was eyeing the resumption of the talks in July. The Communist Party of the Philippines-New People's Army-National Democratic Front (CPP-NPA-NDF), on the other hand, reportedly agreed to return to the negotiating table later this month.

"In our common effort to make sure that we achieve a conducive and enabling environment for peace, President Rodrigo Duterte instructed us last (Wednesday) night to engage our bigger 'peace table' - the general public as well as other sectors in government as we work to negotiate peace with the communist rebels," Dureza said during a Palace press briefing.

"Consequently, the initial timeline that our backchannel team had worked on with their counterparts

(CPP/NPA/NDF) 'across the table' had to be necessarily re-adjusted," he said.

"In other words, the scheduled supposed resumption of talks that have been earlier subject to discussions by our backchannel will not happen as originally set and announced in the media," he said.

Dureza did not give any new date on the possible resumption of the peace talks.

He explained that the President did not want to rush the peace talks to avoid the "same pitfalls of the past." He said they wanted to ensure any peace agreement with the communist would be "implementable."

He also said it was necessary to inform and engage the public about the peace initiative with the communists in the same way as the government consulted with various stakeholders about the proposed Bangsamoro Basic Law.

"The President said, 'Let's reset, give us time to work some more so that whatever agreement will be

signed eventually will be implementable,'" he said.

"Even if we sign agreements nga at hindisuportadongpubliko, walangmangyayari din [Even if we sign agreements and are not supported by the public, nothing will happen]," he said.

Just, sustainable and lasting peace would happen "only when our people understand and support these efforts," Dureza said.

Dureza said the nearly 50 years of on-and-off talks with the rebels need a "close study for lessons to learn from to insure that our 'last chance' to put a dignified closure to the armed rebellion will not be squandered away."

"The government peace panel, in cooperation with the private sector, will continue on its efforts to 'engage' those who earnestly seek peace," he said.

"But it is equally important that the stakeholders on the ground must also be equally engaged through consultations to ensure that all those consensus points and agreements forged in the negotiations table have palpable support from them," he said.

NPA members, supporters surrender in Nueva Ecija

By FRANCIS T. WAKEFIELD

Six members of the New People's Army (NPA) surrendered to the Armed Forces of the Philippines Northern Luzon Command (AFP Nolcom) in Nueva Ecija.

Nolcom spokesman Lt. Col. Isagani Nato said six rebels surrendered to the 7th Civil Military Operations (CMO) Battalion and 84th Infantry Battalion

(84IB) in Barangay San Agustin, Carranglan, Nueva Ecija, at last Tuesday.

The surrenderers consist of an NPA member, three Milisyang Bayan (MB) members, and two Bayan Muna members in their localities.

The surrenderers were identified as Artemio Olite Bonilla, Virgilio Bilugot de Guzman, Dante Flores de Guzman, Rodolfo Achenta Diaz, Premitivo Espiritu Marcelo Jr., and Johnny Serante Eldifonso.

They turned over a US Springfield rifle, two cal .38 revolvers, four improvised shotguns and two cal .22 converted air rifles.

The following day, two NPA members surrendered to the same Army units in Sitio Kamanggahan, Barangay San Agustin, Carranglan.

They brought with them an improvised Springfield rifle.

The two were identified as Marcelino Valdez Roja, 46, single, and a

resident of Barangay San Agustin, and Benjamin Ralleta Tanguilig Sr., 56, a resident of Barangay Burgos, both in Carranglan.

The two belonged to the NPA Josefino Corpuz Command but were later utilized as Milisyang Bayan of Kilusang Larangang Gerilya (KLG) Caraballo in the Carranglan area.

"The surrender was a result of the sustained efforts of Community Support Program (CSP) Teams of the said Army

units deployed in the area, through the conduct of CMO activities and Radio Broadcasting System (RBS) operations," Nato said.

"Nolcom will keep its doors open for those intending to embrace the peaceful resolution to the conflict. Nolcom will also continue to assist in facilitating the integration of former rebels in the mainstream society and have a normal life with their families," he added.

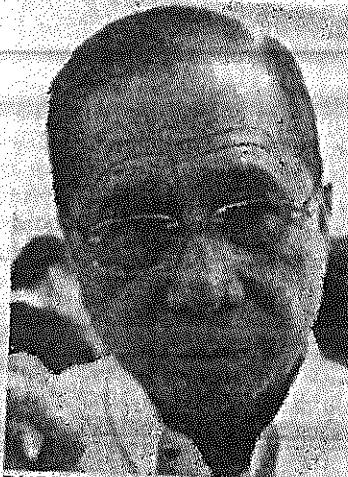
Peace talks hit snag anew

By Mario J. Mallari

The much-awaited resumption of the formal peace negotiations between the government of the Philippines and the National Democratic Front of the Philippines (NDFP) will not push through this month as President Rodrigo Duterte wants more consultations with the public.

In a statement issued yesterday, Presidential Adviser on the Peace Process (OPAPP) Secretary Jesus Dureza said that both GPH and NDFP peace panels will now adjust the scheduled June 28 formal talks.

"In our common effort to make



DUREZA

sure that we achieve a conducive and enabling environment for

peace, President Rodrigo Duterte instructed us last night to engage our bigger 'peace table' – the general public as well as other sectors in government as we work to negotiate peace with the communist rebels," Dureza said.

"Consequently, the initial timeline that our backchannel team had worked on with their counterparts (CPP/NPA/NDF) 'across the table' had to be necessarily re-adjusted," he added.

On Wednesday, Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP) founding chair Jose Ma. Sison, also the chief political consultant of NDFP, said a "stand down"

agreement was reached between the two parties that will pave the way for a ceasefire.

Sison said the "stand down" would start June 21 or a week before the June 28 formal talks.

Dureza acknowledged the need for more public consultations to ensure that majority is in support of the peace negotiations.

"Our peace efforts to succeed should have good support from the general public hence it is necessary that all efforts be exerted to inform and engage them in the same way as the government engages the rebels in addressing the root causes of

conflict," he said.

Dureza said that almost 50 years of intermittent and often times disrupted peace negotiations with the communist rebels across several presidencies need a close study to ensure that our "last chance" to put a dignified closure to the armed rebellion will not be squandered away.

"The government peace panel in cooperation with the private sector will continue its efforts to 'engage' those who earnestly seek peace," Dureza said.

"But it is equally important that the stakeholders on the ground must also be equally

engaged through consultations to ensure that all those consensus points and agreements forged in the negotiations table have palpable support from them," he added.

Dureza said that while both peace panels have already achieved so much breakthroughs during the talks, there is also a need to ensure that they do not falter due to haste.

"Just, sustainable and lasting peace will happen only when our people understand and support these efforts," Dureza said.

He, however, did not mention when the formal peace talks would resume.

Duterte: Peace talks may resume next month

BY JOCELYN MONTEMAYOR AND VICTOR REYES

PRESIDENT Duterte yesterday said formal peace negotiations between government and the Communist Party of the Philippines-New People's Army-National Democratic Front of the Philippines (CPP-NPA-NDFP) may resume in July.

He said he still needs "more time" and is not yet ready to sit down with the communist leaders this month.

The President made the statement during the oath-taking in Sta. Rosa in Laguna of some 4,000 newly-elected barangay officials from the Calabarzon region. This

was shortly after Peace Adviser Jesus Dureza announced in a briefing in Malacañang that there would be no formal peace negotiations between the government and the communist group in Norway by the end of the month.

CPP founder and NDFP consultant Jose Maria "Joma" Sison said Wednesday peace negotiators have agreed to implement a "stand-down agreement" starting Thursday next week "before the June 28-30 formal peace talks in Oslo."

Duterte said he remains committed to his promise to talk peace with the enemies of the State.

Duterte in April directed officials to work on the resumption

of talks with the CPP-NPA-NDFP within 60 days. Dureza said the 60 days ends this month.

Dureza, however, said that after the government panel meeting with the President, Duterte ordered the resetting of the talks to give government a chance to conduct more consultations and really "engage" the public, especially the stakeholders about the peace efforts with the communist group.

"The scheduled supposed resumption of talks that have been earlier subject of the discussions by our backchannel will not happen as originally set and as originally announced in the media," he said referring to Sison's announcement.

He said Labor Secretary and

government chief negotiator Silvestre Bello III has already informed NDFP chief peace negotiator Fidel Agcaoili about the government's decision.

Dureza said there is a need to engage the public and get their support before the government could return to negotiating table. He said the President has stressed this is the last chance to pursue peace with the communists.

"In our common effort to make sure that we achieve a conducive and enabling environment for peace, President Rodrigo Duterte instructed us to engage our bigger peace table to general public, as

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well as other sectors in government as we work to negotiate peace with the communist rebels," he said.

He added that the government could not hasten the formal resumption of talks as it wants to ensure that this last chance to talk peace with communist group would not be squandered.

Dureza said the proposed stand-down agreement that was supposed to take effect on June 21 in anticipa-

tion of the resumption of talks is also "cancelled for the moment."

Presidential spokesman Harry Roque said the Armed Forces and the PNP, while supportive of the peace talks, expressed concern that the NPA might take advantage of the talks by regrouping and recruiting members, like in the past.

He said the President, during a joint command conference in Malacañang on Wednesday night, responded by telling the police and soldiers to give the NPA "the

presumption of good faith" and to just "allow the process to continue."

Sison yesterday accused the Duterte administration of insincerity.

In a statement, Sison said it was "disappointing and frustrating" that the Duterte administration "unilaterally cancelled" the stand-down agreement.

Sison said government and NDFP peace panels signed the written agreements on the stand-down and resumption of the

formal talks last week during back-channel talks in Netherlands.

"I urge the two negotiating panels to release to the public and to the press the written and signed agreements of June 9 and 10 signed by the chairmen of the GRP and NDFP negotiating panels and by the members of their respective special teams," said Sison.

"It is starkly clear that the GRP under Duterte is not interested in serious peace negotiations with the NDFP," said Sison. ϕ

NO PEACE TALKS YET WITH REDS

By Efren Montano

THE resumption of peace negotiations between the government and communist rebels will not proceed on June 28 as the Duterte administration wants to hold more consultations with the public.

Presidential Peace Adviser Jesus Dureza made the announcement yesterday, pointing out it is important to get the support of the people in the process of finalizing a peace deal with the Communist Party of the Philippines-New People's Army-National Democratic Front.

Dureza said the government has already informed the NDF and Norway, the third party facilitator of the talks, about the development.

Headed the government will have to make the "final call" on the resumption of negotiations.

Duterte has invited CPP founding chairman Jose Maria Sison, who has been living in self-imposed exile in The Netherlands, to return to the Philippines so they can directly negotiate peace and oversee the talks during the 60-day period set by the chief executive himself.

Sison said he was willing to come home provided there would be significant development in the peace negotiations and his lawyers are satisfied with legal and security precautions.

Duterte has repeatedly assured Sison that he will be safe should he return to the Philippines and that he will be free to leave "unhampered and unfettered" even if the negotiations fell through.

The peace talks had been scuttled last November, which the government blamed on continued attacks by the rebels on government troops and civilians.

8 'Reds' give up to NOLCOM in Ecija

By STEVE A. GOSUICO

CABANATUAN City - At least eight suspected members of the communist New People's Army rebels gave themselves up to authorities in Nueva Ecija last Tuesday and Wednesday, the Army's Northern Luzon Command reported yesterday.

Lt. Col. Isagani G. Nato, NOLCOM public information officer, said six of them initially surrendered to members of the 7th Civil Military Operations (CMO) Battalion and 84th Infantry Battalion (84IB), both under the Joint Task Force (JTF) "Tala" of the 7th Infantry Division (7ID), based in Bgy. San Agustin, Carranglan, Nueva Ecija, at 5 p.m. last Tuesday.

Of the six surrenderers, one was an NPA rebel, three were members of the Militiang Bayan (MB), while two were described as Bayan Muna members in their localities, said Nato.

They were identified as Artemio Olite Bonilla, alias Arte/Ocho/Jake; Virgilio Bilugot de Guzman, alias Biyong; Dante Flores de Guzman, alias Waway; Rodolfo Achenta Diaz, alias Pamboy; Premitivo Espiritu Marcelo Jr., alias Fred; and Johnny Serante Eldifonso, alias Pader.

Nato said the surrenderers also turned over to the Army at least nine firearms, consisting of an M19003 cal. 30, two cal. 38 revolvers, three 12-gauge shotguns, a 20-gauge shotgun, and two cal. 22 converted-air rifle.

Also, on Wednesday, two NPA rebels surfaced at the Army's Temporary Patrol Base in Sitio Manggahan, Bgy. San Agustin, Carranglan, and surrendered to the soldiers manning the detachment at 11:30 a.m. They brought with them an improvised Springfield 5.56mm rifle.

The duo were identified as Marcelino Valdez Roja, alias Marsing, 46, single, of Bgy. San Agustin, and Benjamin Ralleta Tanguilig Sr., alias Charbe, 56, of Bgy. Burgos, both of Carranglan town.

Nato said they were former regular members of the NPA Josefino Corpuz Command but were later utilized as Militiang Bayan (MB) of Kilusang Larangang Gerilya (KLG) Caraballo in Carranglan area.

He said they were presented to Carranglan Vice Mayor Efren "Bogie" Alfonso and ABC president Rogelio Abad.

Nato said their surrender was a result of the sustained efforts of Community Support Program (CSP) teams of the said Army units deployed in the area, through the conduct of CMO activities and Radio Broadcasting System (RBS) operations.

NOLCOM will keep its doors open for those intending to embrace the peaceful resolution to the conflict and will also continue to assist in facilitating the integration of former rebels in the mainstream society and have a normal life with their families.

CPP-NPA official arrested in Bataan

By Bernard Galang

CAMP OLIVAS, Pampanga – A regional official of the Communist Party of the Philippines-New People's Army (CPP-NPA) on Wednesday was arrested in a joint police and military operation in Samal, Bataan.

Arrested was Juanito Carabeo alias "Ka Toktok," 62, an assistant secretary of the Regional Medical Staff Central Luzon Regional Committee of the communist organization.

Police Regional Office 3 director Chief Supt. Amador Corpus said Carabeo is one of the region's most wanted persons.

Armed with warrants of arrest, operatives of the Bataan Provincial Intelligence Branch, Criminal Investigation and Detection Group-3, Bataan 1st Provincial Mobile Force Company, Samal Municipal Police, Philippine Air Force 301st SMG-300AISW, Philippine Army 7MIB 7ID, Regional Police R2, RIU, NISU and NISG arrested the alleged communist rebel at Sitio Sunshine, Bgy. San Juan, Samal town around 4:30 p.m. on Wednesday.

Police records showed that Carabeo has strings of arrest warrants for murder, arson, and violation of Article 314 of the Revised Penal Code or rebellion.

The arrest warrants were issued by Judge Manuel Tan of the Regional Trial Court Branch 2 in Balanga City, Bataan.

Carabeo is temporarily under the custody of the Samal Municipal Police Station for documentation and proper disposition.

"The successful operation was a result of concerted intelligence-driven operations and diligent efforts of both the police and the military to arrest all lawless elements, especially high-profile fugitives in the region," Corpus said.

8 REDS SURRENDER IN NUEVA ECIIJA

At least eight suspected members of the communist New People's Army on Tuesday and Wednesday surrendered to the authorities in Nueva Ecija.

Northern Luzon Command public information officer Lt. Col. Isagani Nato said six rebels on Tuesday yielded to the 7th Civil Military Operations Battalion and 84th Infantry Battalion under the Joint Task Force Taia of the 7th Infantry Division based in Bgy. San Agustin, Carranglan, Nueva Ecija.

Of the six returnees, one was an NPA rebel, three were members of the Milihiang Bayan while two were Bayan Muna members. They were identified as Artemio Olite Bonilla alias "Arte/Ocho/Jake," Virgilio Bilugot De Guzman alias "Biyong," Dante Flores De Guzman alias "Waway," Rodolfo Achenta Diaz alias "Pamboy," Prenutivito Espiritu Marcelo Jr. alias "Fred," and Johnny Serante Eldifonso alias "Pader."

Nato said the surrenderees also turned over to the Army at least nine firearms consisting of an M19003, a cal 30, two cal. 38 revolvers, three 12-gauge shotguns, a 20-gauge shotgun, and two cal.22 converted air rifle.

On Wednesday, two NPA rebels surrendered to the soldiers manning the Army's Temporary Patrol Base at Sitio Manggahan, Bgy. San Agustin, Carranglan. They brought with them an improvised Springfield 5.56mm rifle.

The two returnees were identified as Marcelino Valdez Roja alias "Marsing," 46, of Bgy. San Agustin, and Benjamin Ralleta Tanguilig Sr. alias "Charlie," 56, of Bgy. Burgos, both of Carranglan town.

Valdez and Tanguilig were former members of the NPA Josefino Corpuz Command and were later utilized as Milihiang Bayan of the Kilusang Larangang Gerilya Caraballo in Carranglan. They were presented to Carranglan Vice Mayor Efren "Bogie" Alfonso and ABC president Rogelio Abad.

Nato said the surrender was a result of the sustained efforts of Community Support Program Teams of the Army units deployed in the area.

The official said the NolCom will keep its doors open for those who want to surrender. He said they will continue to assist in facilitating the integration of former rebels in the mainstream society and have a normal life with their families.

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With Steve Gosulco



CPP-NPA exec nabbed in Bataan

By BERNARD GALANG

CAMP Olivas, Pampanga -- A regional official of the Communist Party of the Philippines-New People's Army (CPP-NPA) was arrested in a joint police and military operation in Samal, Bataan, the other day.

Police Regional Office 3 director Chief Supt. Amador Corpus identified the arrested NPA official as Juanito Carabeo, alias "Ka Tuktok", 62, assistant secretary of the Regional Medical Staff Central Luzon Regional Committee of the communist organization.

Police listed Carabeo as one of the region's most wanted persons. The alleged communist rebel was arrested at around 4:30 p.m. in Sitio Sunshine, Bgy. San Juan, Samal town, by operatives of the Bataan Provincial Intelligence Branch, Criminal Investigation and Detection Group-3, Bataan 1st Provin-

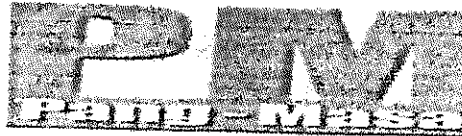
cial Mobile Force Company, Samal Municipal Police, Philippine Air Force 301st SMG 300AISW, Army 7MIB 7ID, Regional Police R2, RIU, NISU and NISG who were armed with warrants of arrest.

Police records show that Carabeo has strings of arrest warrants for murder docketed under CC No. 1125, arson (CC No. 1148), and violation of Article 314 of the Revised Penal Code (rebellion, CC No. 11049) issued by Judge Manuel Tan of Regional Trial Court Branch 2 in Balanga City, Bataan.

He is temporarily placed under the custody of Samal Municipal Police Station for documentation and proper disposition.

"This successful operation is the result of concerted intel-driven operations and diligent efforts of both the police and the military to arrest all lawless elements especially high profile fugitives in the region," Corpus said.

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Opisyal ng CPP-NPA, nadakip

Isang opisyal ng Communist Party of the Philippines-New People's Army (CPP-NPA) ang nadakip ng pinagsanib na puwersa ng pulisya at militar sa isinagawang law enforcement operation sa Samal, Bataan, kamakalawa ng hapon.

Kinilala ang nasakoteng suspek na si Juanito Carabeo alyas Ka Toktok, 62, tumatayong Assistant Secretary, Regional Medical Staff Central Luzon Regional Committee (CLRC) at nakatala bilang most wanted sa Region 3.

Ayon kay Bataan Provincial Police Office Director P/Sr. Supl. Marcelo Dayag, handlang alas-4:30 ng hapon nang masakote ng pinagsanib na mga operatiba ng Bataan Provincial Intelligence Branch Criminal Investigation Detection Group (CIDG) 3, Bataan 1st Provincial Mobile Force Company, Samat Municipal Police Station (MPS), Philippine Air Force, 7th ID ng Philippine Army sa Samal, Bataan - *Joy Cantos*

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ONLINE NEWS

15 June 2018

CAPTURED | Region 3 Most Wanted apprehended in Bataan

Posted by Alvin Santiago on June 15, 2018 at 4:01 PM

CAMP SERVILLANO AQUINO, Tarlac City (DWDD) – A most wanted member of the New People's Army Terrorist Group was apprehended by joint elements of Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) and Philippine National Police in Bataan province at about 4:30 PM of June 13, 2018 (Wednesday).

The suspect was arrested in Brgy. San Juan, Samal, Bataan who was later identified as Juanito D. Carabeo @ TOKTOK, 62 years old, married and a resident of Brgy San Juan, Samal, Bataan. He was a CPP/NPA member with a pending warrant of arrest of Murder, Rebellion and an Arson case at the Regional Trial Court (RTC) Branch 2 Balanga City.

Joint operatives from the 300th Air Intelligence Service Wing (300AISW) of the Philippine Air Force, 7th Military Intelligence Battalion (7MIB) under the 7th Infantry Division (7ID) of the Philippine Army (PA), Naval Intelligence Service Group (NISG) of the Philippine Navy, Police Regional Intelligence Units, Criminal Investigation and Detection Group (CIDG) and Samal Municipal Police Office (MPS) conducted a synchronized manhunt operation against the most wanted person with warrant of arrest.

This resulted to the arrest of said suspect listed as most wanted at the regional level. Subject person was brought to Samal MPS for documentation and proper disposition. NOLCOM will continue to conduct Law Enforcement Support Operations (LESO), in tandem with other law enforcement units to maintain peace and stability in the communities, contributing to nation-building. 7DPAO / MCAG

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OINT RECOMMENDATION | 7ID, PNP declare Pangasinan as Insurgency Free

by: **Alvin Santiago** | [alvin.santiago@defender7id.com](#)

FORT RAMON MAGSAYSAY, Nueva Ecija (DWDD) – The 7th Infantry “Kaugnay” Division together with Pangasinan Police Provincial Office recommended the declaration of Pangasinan Province as Insurgency Free at Agtarap Hall, Pangasinan Provincial Police Office, Lingayen, Pangasinan today, June 14, 2018.



A Joint Recommendation between the 702nd Infantry “Defender” Brigade, 7ID and Pangasinan Police Provincial Office was signed endorsing Pangasinan to be declared as “Insurgency Free”.

An Insurgency Free Province means that there is already a very favorable peace and order conditions which were verified by the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) and Philippine National Police (PNP) deployed in the area. The declaration of the province as insurgency free is necessary to further spur its unhampered march towards progress while keeping the commitment of the Philippine Army and PNP to continue its effort in sustaining and preserving the peace and order in the province.



A Joint Declaration on the Clearing of the Province of Pangasinan was previously signed by the former Commander of 7ID, MGen Irineo C Espino AFP (Ret) and the former Governor of Pangasinan, Hon. Amado T Espino Jr on July 12, 2010.

The pronouncement of Pangasinan as "Cleared" from the Local Terrorist Groups' (LTGs) and the Communist NPA Terrorists' (CNTs) affectation and influence is a requirement prior to the declaration of Pangasinan as Insurgency Free.

Major General Felimon T Santos Jr AFP conveyed his compliments to the 702nd Brigade and other 7ID units to its recent accomplishment. He said that the declaration of Insurgency Free means that the people in Pangasinan supports the government's thrust against the LTGs and CNTs. He added that all of 7ID units are utterly committed in performing their duty so that all of the provinces within the division's area of responsibility will be declared "Insurgency Free".

Brigadier General Henry A Robinson AFP Jr., Commander of 702nd Infantry (Defender) Brigade, 7ID said that they will not let their guards down regardless of the declaration of Pangasinan as Insurgency Free. He said that the recommendation for the declaration is the result of the undertakings of 7ID units assigned in the area. He further said that 702nd Brigade is committed to keep the peace and order of Pangasinan.

It is noteworthy to mention that the provinces of Bataan, La Union and Pampanga were already declared Insurgency Free. 7IDKaugnay / MCAG

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COMMUNITY EFFORT | More NPA members and supporters surrender in Nueva Ecija

By: Alvin Santiago | June 12, 2018 | 11:00 AM

CAMP SERVILLANO AQUINO, Tarlac City (DWDD) – Several members of the Communist New People's Army Terrorist Group (CNTG) yields to Northern Luzon Command (NOLCOM) Army troops in two (2) separate occasions in Nueva Ecija.



Six (6) personalities initially surrendered to the troops of 7th Civil Military Operations (CMO) Battalion and 84th Infantry Battalion (84IB), both under the Joint Task Force (JTF) "Tala" of the 7th Infantry Division (7ID), in Brgy San Agustin, Carranglan, Nueva Ecija at 5:00 in the afternoon of June 12, 2018 (Tuesday).

The surrenderees consist of a New People's Army (NPA) member, three (3) Militia ng Bayan (MB) members, while two (2) of them were Bayan Muna members in their localities. They were identified later as Artemio Olite Bonilla @ ARTE/OCHO/JAKE; Virgilio Bilugot De Guzman @ BIYONG; Dante Flores De Guzman @WAWAY; Rodolfo Achenta Diaz @PAMBOY; Premitivo Espiritu Marcelo Jr @FRED; and Johnny Serante Eklifonso @ PADER.

They also turned-over one (1) high-powered firearm and eight (8) low-powered firearms comprised of one (1) US Springfield M1903 Cal .30 bolt action; two (2) Cal .38 Smith and Wesson with SN# 082246/Colt; three (3) 12-Gauge shot (Improvised); one (1) 20-Gauge shot (Improvised); and two (2) Cal .22 (Armscor Air Rifle-converted).

The next day, June 13, 2018 (Wednesday) at 11:30 in the morning, another two NPA members also surrendered with a high-powered firearm (an improvised Springfield 5.56mm rifle) to the same Army units in a Temporary Patrol Base at Sitio Kamanggahan, Brgy San Agustin, Carranglan, Nueva Ecija.

They were identified as Marcelino Valdez Roja @ Marsing (46 years old, single, and a resident of Brgy San Agustin) and Benjamin Ralleta Tanguilig Sr @ Charlie (56 years old, and a resident of Brgy Burgos), both of Carranglan, Nueva Ecija.

Said personalities were former regular members of the NPA Josefino Corpuz Command but were later utilized as Milisyang Bayan (MB) of Kilusang Larangang Gerilya (KLG) Caraballo in Carranglan area.

Said surrenderees were presented to the Local Government Officials headed by Carranglan vice Mayor Efren "Bogie" Alfonso and Hon. Rogelio Abad, the ABC President.

The surrender was a result of the sustained efforts of Community Support Program (CSP) Teams of the said Army units deployed in the area, through the conduct of CMO activities and Radio Broadcasting System (RBS) operations

NOLCOM will keep its doors open for those intending to embrace the peaceful resolution to the conflict. NOLCOM will also continue to assist in facilitating the integration of former rebels in the mainstream society and have a normal life with their families. **NOLCOM / MCAG**

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